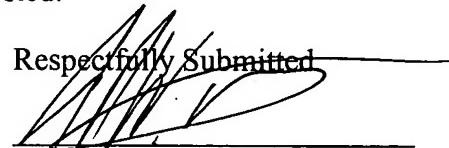


**REMARKS**

Before examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please enter the present Preliminary Amendment. By the present amendment, claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9-16 are the claims which were withdrawn from the parent application, Serial No. 09/990,740, in view of a restriction requirement dated May 13, 2002. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

  
Respectfully Submitted

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